APPOINTMENTS.

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MR. EDMUNDS TO THE PRESIDENT. AN IMPORTANT LETTER-MR. EDMUNDS DISAFPROVES OF CONGRESSIONAL DICTATION.

IBY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.) WASHINGTON, Jan. 10 .- Senator Edmunds, of Vermont, has written a letter to the President on the proper relations which should exist between the legislative and executive departments of the Government in regard to appointments. As the views here set forth by Mr. Edmunds are in harmony with those known to be entertained by the President, Republicans who have read them hope that the basis for a perfect understanding between the Administration and the Republican Senators may have been here indicated. The letter is given be-

THE LETTER.

THE EXECUTIVE AND CONGRESS EACH TO BE PER-FECTLY FREE IN THEIR RESPECTIVE SPHERES. IBY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.

UNITED STATES SENATE CHAMPER, WASHINGTON, Dec. 29, 1877. MR. PRESIDENT: Returning from an absence from tewn, I find your note of the 17th instant. In it, referring to a prior conversation between us in relation to the intervention of Senators and Representatives in respect to nominations and appointments by the Executive Department of the Government, you ask me to give you again my views and experiences on the subject. I do so with greater pleasure and freedom from the circumstance that your views and my own concerning what ought to be the independence of the Executive in making nominations and submitting treaties, and the independence of the Senate in acting thereon, are entirely in accord, and that I believe this independence would be made much more perfect if what is suggested below could be carried into practice.

In the great number of selections required to be made to fill the necessary offices in all parts of the Republic, the capacity and character, and in many instances the opinions, of persons suggested for places ought to be known, and must generally be ascertained by information from some source extraneous to the Executive Department. It has not been possible generally for the President or heads of departments personally to know the propriety of a particular selection. This has naturally led to the practice of applicants for place and citizens recommending them communicating with the Execntive branch of the Government through the Senaters and Representatives in Congress, and, reciprocally, to the President and heads of departments asking and receiving the information, and sometimes the advice, of Senators and Representatives on the subject. So far, I think the process was natural and reasonable, and perhaps, in a degree, necessary, as the simplest and safest means of the Executive Department acquiring indispensable in-

A PERVERSION OF THE SYSTEM.

But, as in almost every kind of affair unrestricted by positive and binding limitations, a useful habit became a custom, and the custom gradually transformed itself from its true nature as a means of information into the course of practically disposing of Executive local appointments, according to the judgment or the will of Senators and Representatives. They came gradually to volunteer recommendations in every instance, and the Executive Department in like manner came to receive and treat such recommendations as final, as a relief from personal scrutiny of testimonials and objections, and from much of the sense of responsibility This was evidently an abuse and perversion of the

constitutional theory of appointments as well as of a salutary process in administration.

The effect of this was of course not beneficial. The citizen who secured the prize of effice became too often the personal adherent of the Senator or member who secured him the place, and the disappeinted ones became the reverse. Senators and members were sometimes influenced in their recommendations by considerations of ambition or of gratitude to those who had rendered or were expected to render aid to their personal aims in politics. The liberty of free political expression and ging to the placeholder as a citizen became also somewhat cramped and embarrassed. Perhaps still more injurious to public interests was

the entanglement of the relations between Senators and Representatives and the Executive Department. Who can measure in such cases how much of Executive action in appointments is due to a desire to secure an appropriation or avoid investigation, or encourage or reward a legislative or Senatorial following? Who can tell in such a case how far the Senator who votes for or against a favorite treaty or nomination, or the Representative who votes for or against an appropriation or an inquiry, has been moved thereto by what has been or what is expected to be done or omitted by the Executive branch in the direction of his wishes ?

I hardly need say that these things do not imply corruption in the ordinary sense in any one. They imply rather bias, prejudice and perversion of judgment, arising from self-interest and a desire of power and success, from which human nature is nowhere free.

CONGRESSIONAL ABSTENTION.

The distinct separation and independence of the various branches of the Government rest upon principles drawn from universal experience, and they cannot be too strongly main-The Senate and House of Representatives must, in their respective spheres, watch and scrutinize and deal with, if need be, every step of the Executive departments; and they, in their turn, must administer the law as it is through proper agents, free from the dictation of members of the Legislative branch and from the temptation either to yield to their dictation or to influence or corrupt them by the bestowal of patronage. It may be that these suggestions are simple trueisms; but they are those that cannot be too often repeated. They are stated in more general terms in the formal declarations of the political parties of the country at their last conventions.

How, then, shall we follow them? It has appeared to me that much could be accomplished in the right direction by the absolute abstention of Senators and Representatives from recommending particular appointments at all, unless their advice should be asked by the Executive Department; and accordingly, since the incoming of the present Administration, I have endeavored consistently and steadily, to abstain from doing so, and I believe I have kept my purpose. I have thought it consistent with this position when applications or recommendations for place have been sent me, to forward them to the proper office, with a written statement or memorandum of the character and standing of the signers, if known to me; and I have thought it right, indeed, a duty, whenever any of my constituents in the employ ment of the Executive Department has complained of its action as unjust in respect to him, to make the necessary inquiries, and endeavor to rectify

what should appear to be wrong.

These, I think, ought to be the clear and positive boundaries in respect to appointments between the members of the two branches of the Government. I am gratified in elieving that this course is satisfactory to my constituents, and in feeling that neither my official course nor that of the Executive Department, so far as I am concerned, can be affected by the influences to which I have alluded.

LEGISLATION SUGGESTED. But to have proper and fair effect, whatever course is pursued ought to be uniform, constant and universal. Any system will be radically vicious and will fail that opens the candidacy for the duties and honors of public trusts to the citizens of one

State or section only upon the previous knowledge of the Executive branch or the simple recommendations of private persons, while there is brought to bear for the candidates of other States and sections the powerful and personal solicitations of Senators and Representatives, whose gratitude for success may be drawn upon in an emergency, or whose disappointment in failure may prejudice them against some most necessary measure recommended by the

It can be easily seen, too, that there would be no gain to the public welfare if the practice of followng the volunteer recommendations if Senators and Representatives were to give place to the influence of private cliques, or to a business brokerage in offices, as it is said has sometimes happened. It is not probable that the fitness of persons appointed would be increased by such a change as this, and it is clear that the responsibility of the promoters of such appointments would be less, as they would be less easily ascertained, and would not have so strong motives to satisfy public opinion as those who had been elected to the House or Senate by their fellow-citizens, and who are generally supposed to desire fresh proofs of public confi-

With the vast extent of our territory and its population, the number of place-holders has of necessity become very great, and the means of personal or other knowledge of men by the Executive branch has proportionately decreased; and in the same degree the evils of patronage, in whatever hands it practically exists, is increased. I think these can be greatly mitigated by an entire cessation by Senators and Representatives from volunteer advice or solicitations respecting appointments and by the establishment by law of definite regula tions respecting selection for many offices and employments, and the terms upon which they shall be held, so that the Executive branch and the legislative bodies may be and feel perfectly free in their respective spheres, and so that the holders of office may feel, also, that they are the servants of the law, and not the personal tenants at will in their places of either heads of departments or Congressmen.

I am very respectfully yours, GEO. F. EDMUNDS.

THE BLACK MAN'S FUTURE.

ONE OF THE RACE WHO BELIEVES THE NEW SOUTHERN POLICY IMPROVES IT.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE THIBUNE.]
WASHINGTON, Jan. 10.—The Hon. J. Willis Menard, of Louisiana, who was the first colored man ever elected to the American Congress, will deliver a lecture next week to the colored people of this city on the condition and prospects of the negro under a solid South.

Mr. Menard says that the race problem cannot be olved by Federal bayonets or repressive laws, and that the spirit of political philanthropy which seeks to maintain sectional animosities on the issues of the past and at the expense of National prosperity, which is sure to flow from a reunited country, is false and speculative. He asserts that the negro race in America is not dying out, but is rather increasing, and that assumptions to the contrary are not based upon statistics of mortality from the country at large, but from a few cities into which negroes have crowded in numbers too great to find employment. They have, in such cases, been unable to provide them seives with necessities and comforts of life, and a riality greater than that among the white people has been the result.

Mr. Menard declares that the product of negro labor is greater now than it ever was before the abolition of slavery. In support of this statement he compares the statistics of cotton production from 1853 to 1861, eight years under slavery, with those from 1869 to 1877, eight years under freedom, showing a surplus in favor of the latter period of nearly 3,000,000 bales. He believes that the signs which are already apparent in the shape of independent political mevements in the South must result within five years in breaking up the solid Demo cratic rule, and he thinks the sconer the negro's rights and wrongs are taken out of party platforms and political discussions, the better it will be for the race. He says that the supply of labor in the South is far in excess of the present demand, and he advises the negro to seek such local political alimnees as are favorable to a widespread system of internal improvements in that section, through the aid of the Federal Government, and thus make a market for

He also advises his countrymen to emigrate from localities where their labor is not needed to the West and Southwest and to the negro republics of Hayti and Liberia. "Let them venture," says Mr. Menard, "to all parts of the world, as do the whites of Europe and America."

Mr. Menard says that since the acknowledgment by the Federal authorities of the right of local selfgovernment at the South, Northern capital has be gun to flow liberally in that direction, and in the he finds a promise of renewed prosperity, of which the colored man must reap his share. He considers the ballot, without education, an element of weak-ness and danger, and he suggests that the proceeds of public land sales be applied to the extension of

the common school system.

Mr. Menard asserts that troops at the South were not a source of protection to the negro; that they were not only usually hostile to him, but that their presence had the effect of provoking a larger measure of bad feeling against him than would otherwise have been the case. That a change of some kind was necessary, he thinks every reasonable man must admit. "The country," he says, "is sick at heart of this continued discussion of war issues, and it has no sympathy with any novement whose aim is to fire the Northern heart against the South, not in the interest of the negro nor of the public welfare, but purely for political power. The negro has been played long enough as a trump in not a source of protection to the negro; that the were not only usually hostile to him, but that the egro has been played long enough as a trump in ne political game, and it is high time for a new deal. The war waged against the Southern policy of the Administration is suicidal, and will prove a cause of weakness to the Republican party. The policy is only a wise and timely anticipation of the end made inevitable by public opinion and the urgent necessities of the country."

COLLEGE OARSMEN.

INTEREST AT CORNELL IN OXFORD'S REPORTED CHALLENGE OF COLUMBIA-THE LATTER NOT

THE CHAMPION OF AMERICA. IBY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.

ITHACA, N. Y., Jan, 10 .- The announcement that Oxford University on the arrival of the Columbia Cellege crewin England, will challenge them to row a four-oared race for the College championship of the world, has created considerable excitement among Cornell College oarsmen. Cornell claims that Columbia will have a perfect right to enter against Oxford or Cambridge Universities in a race in which only Columbia College is interested, but they will have no right to engage in an international college race for the championship of the world as the representative college crew of America, for the reason that the Columbia four cannot be considered the college champion four of this country. Cornell University won the championship at the inter-

college regatta at Saratoga in 1875-76, in which Columhis was defeated. If Columbia College insists that it holds the championship and desire to represent this country in a race with Oxford and Cambridge Universities Columbia will have to prove her right to claim that title by a contest with Cornell. Harvard and Yale wil then protest against Columbia's claim and latter will have to settle the question with them. Under these circumstances, it is not proba-ble that Oxford University will consent to row Columbia a four-oared international contest, unless the Columbia College four go to England as the champion college crew of this country, and to decide that question, Columbia will have to meet Cornell in a four-oared contest, and probably Yale and Harvard.

ROBBING A RAILWAY DEPOT. PROVIDENCE, R. I., Jan. 10.-The depot at Wickford Junction, on the Stonington Railroad, was broken open this morning, the iron safe was taken out, placed on a flat-car, and run down the track a mile, where it was blown open and robbed of about \$150. The robbers escaped on a hand-car, going through Providence.

WASHINGTON.

BOTH HOUSES AT WORK. INCIDENTS AND GENERAL TOPICS-PROTESTS AGAINST HASTY TARIFF LEGISLATION.

There was a quorum in each House of Congres vesterday. The Senate proceedings were varied by a debate on admitting women to the bar of the chamber to discuss suffrage. The the chamber to discuss suffrage. The Proposition was beaten. The House ordered general investigations. The Republicans did not oppose this, and Mr. Foster denied that the Administration feared it. No work of any amount has yet been done on the Appropriation Bills. Petitions are being received, protesting against careless tarifi legisla-

A VACATION WASTED. NONE OF THE APPROPRIATION BILLS APPARENTLY

TOUCHED TO ANY EXTENT. IBY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE. Washington, Jan. 10.-The work of the Appro priations Committee of the House is not as far advanced as had been expected. During the recess it was reported that the Legislative Bill, which ordinarily is the first presented to the House, was completed. A member the Sub-Committee charged with the preparation of that bill says that it has scarcely been touched; and that so far as he is concerned, he has not looked into a book of estimates during the recess. The other bills are not in an advanced state, and several members of the committee say that the real work of the Appropriations Committee is yet to be begun. About the only advantages gained by the begun. About the only advantages gained by the extra session are that the Paris Exposition Bill has been disposed of, and will not occupy six weeks in discussion as the Centennial Bill did; and provision has been made for the Army and Navy. Another circumstance which will facilitate the progress of the bills is that the the Democrats in this Congress will not have to revise the plans of a Republican Congress, as they did two years ago. Then every item in every bill was sharply contested. Now they have only to revise their own work.

INVESTIGATIONS ORDERED.

THE REPUBLICANS DO NOT OPPOSE IT BUT THEY WORRY MR. WOOD A LITTLE NEVERTHELESS. (BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.)

WASHINGTON, Jan. 10.-The House upon assembling this morning took up the unfinished business, which was the resolution authorizing the standing committees to begin a general system of investigation.

The Republicans offered no factions opposition, but Mr. Hale moved a substitute, reciting that investigation should only take place when specific allegations were made, and some member of Con gress would state that he believed them. Mr. Clymer said if such had been the rule two years ago the Belknap investigation never could have taken place. After debate for several hours in commutee. Mr. Hale's substitute was adopted. This was owing to the absentees on the Democratic side, the Reublicans being more generally in their seats.

Mr. Wood was greatly worried and was obliged to adjourn the House which the Republicans resisted The adjournment was only carried by the arrival of three tardy Democrats who came in just in time to reverse the Republican victory.

Lectures against Democratic absenteeism will now be in order. It is thought that enough members will arrive to-night to give Mr. Wood control

Representative Charles Fester made a very significant two minutes' speech to-day. He had said authoritatively, that the Administration and not fear investigation. A little later, Mr. S. not fear investigation. A little later, Mr. S. S. Cox referred in an indirect way to Mr. Foster, and indiaged in some insumations about bargains which resulted in the inauguration of President Hayes. Mr. Foster, in reply, said that leaf that inneeded nught be insumederstood by his silence, he would answer the interrogatory, "liow did you get the President into the White House P and would say, in reply to the numerous charges in the public press and in the Chandler letter, that, so far as he was concerned, there is not a single scintilla of truth or any proof that can be produced in support of these changes;

THE CAPITOL INVADED BY WOMEN. THE SENATORS CALLED OUT ONE BY ONE AND TALKED TO-AN ADVERSE VOTE IN THE SEN-

IBY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.1

Washington, Jan. 10.—The advocates of wo-man suffrage, who are holding a conven tion in this city, showed much zeal pushing their "campaign for freedom" to-day. They repaired to the Capitol early in the morning nd they spent the day there discresing in public and private their plan of operations and making personal appeals to Senators and Representatives. First they held a meeting of their Convention in the adies' reception-room of the Senate, the proceedings seing similar in character to those held in Lincoln Hall yesterlay and to-day..

At twelve c'clock the delegates and those who

sympathized with them, accompanied by many who were attracted by curiosity, went into the Senate galleries to witness the presentation of a resolution that had been prepared to allow the advocates o woman suffrage to present their petitions in person at the bar of the Senate and make arguments in their behalf. The champion of the women was Senator Sargent. The resolution was opposed by Senators Edmunds and Howe, who drew graphic picture of the troubles the Schate would get itself into if it violated all precedents, and allowed people to advocate their pet measures before the senate instead of in the committee-rooms. A call for the regular order by Senator Edmunds put a stop to the discussion in the morning hour, but sub sequently, just before the adjournment this evening, Mr. Sargent's resolution was overwhelmingly de fented.

In the House a similar resolution was offered by Judge Wm. D. Kelley, but its immediate considera tion was objected to by Mr. Crittenden, of Missouri. tion was objected to by Mr. Crittenden, of Missouri.

The members of the Woman's Convention remained in the ladies' reception room of the Senate and about the lobbies nearly all the afternoon. Nearly every Senator was sent for, and the cause was presented to him with an ad hominem arcument, and the power of personal persussion was fully tried. A few Senators did not respond, but they had to suffer if they ventured into the lobbies. As soon as they made their appearance they were pounced upon, and generally did not escape until they had heard what

made their appearance they were pounced upon, and generally did not escape until they had heard what the women had to say.

Mr. Conkling's experience was very funny. As he was passing through the lobby he was surrounded by about a dezen women. Hoping to escape, he turned first to one side, then to the other, only to find the pathway blocked by some zealous advocate of woman suffinge. Just as he was about to resign himself to his fate, Vice-President Wheeler passed through the lobby, and when the women stepped aside to allow him to pass Mr. Conkling seized the opportunity to slip through the pathway that was opened for him and to get safely inside the Senate doors.

The advocates of woman suffrage gained nothing by their personal appeals to Senators and Representatives. People never do when they make bores of themselves.

A MERCHANTS' PETITION. AUTHORITY ASKED TO PERMIT ERRORS IN THE

PAYMENT OF DUTIES TO BE CORRECTED. BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE. WASHINGTON, Jan. 10 .- Mr. Abram S. Hewitt preented to the House to-day the following petition

from the Chamber of Commerce: [The petitioners, the Chamber of Commerce of the city of New-York, having presented to the Secretary of the Treasury a petition for an equitable rule to authorize the correction of errors in the assessment of duties, as

follows:

That whenever it shall be presented to the notice of any Collector of Customs of a district wherein goods, wares and merchandise have been imported, that the duty on any entry of merchandise, under the tariff, acts of 1864 and 1872, has been wrongfully assessed, he shall cause such invoice to be examined by the appraiser. If an error is discovered in the appraisement or collection of duty on any entry, the appraiser shall certify to the Collector, under section 2,950,

Revised Statutes, the liability to duty thereon, and the Collector shall thereupon reliquidate such entry in conformity therewith. In case it should appear that the payments to the Government have been insufficient, the Collector of Customs shall at once take measures to collect the additional amount due; and in case it should appear that the importer has paid or has been assessed more than is justly due, then he may protest under section 2,931 Revised Statutes.

The Honogebic Secretory of the Treasury having re-

The Honorable Secretary of the Treasury having re-

piled:
That in the matter of the petition signed by a large number of importers in New-York, Philadelphia, Boston, and Baltimore, which requests that entries at those ports made prior to the act of June 22, 1874, may be opened for the correction of errors of fact, whether such errors be in favor of or against the Government, I have to state that I wave referred all the papers in the case to Assistant Secretary French, who has reported to me that, in his opinion, the Secretary of the Treasury has not the power, under the law, to grant the request made in said petition, the act of June 22, 1874, cutting off any power which may possibly have existed under prefixisting laws to afford the desired relief. The only redress open to the petitioners is through an application to Congress, as there is no case now pending in which it would be practicable under the form of existing laws to obtain such a decision of the Supreme Court as would release the department from what, in my judgment, is a fair construction of the act before mentioned.

Now, therefore, the petitioners, in submission to the Now, therefore, the petitioners, in submission to the

uling as above quoted, and at the suggestion of the Honorable Secretary of the Treasury as aforesaid, do humbly pray that Congress may in its wisdom devise ome law by which the errors of fact in the assessment and collection of duties on imports, whether in favor of or against the Government, may be equitably adjusted, and also do herewith propose, for favorable consideracomplishment of such purpose, to wit:

complishment of such purpose, to wit:

SECTION I. That whenever it appears by a judgment of a Court of the United States, or upon application to the Secretary of the Treasury with a certificate of a United States Appraiser, or by a statement of the Collector of the Customs, wherein any goods, wares or increhandise have been imported, that insufficient daties, or duties in excess of those required by existing laws at the date of importation, have been assessed, the Secretary of the Treasury shall order the carries of such goods to be reliquidated, and such errencous assessments to be corrected, and payment of the uncollected duties, lead be required of the importer, or the excess refunded, respectively.

respectively.
SEC, 2. That the Secretary of the Treasury be and he is hereby authorized and directed to make such equitable rules and regulations as shall give full effect to the foregoing act; and that all acts and parts of acts inconsistent with the provisions of this act be, and the same are hereby repealed.

CHANDLER A CANDIDATE. HE DESIRES TO BE SENATOR FROM NEW-HAMP-

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TERBUNE.] Washington, Jan. 10.-Mr. Wm. E. Chandler's friends in this city say that he will be candidate for Senator Wadleigh's place, if the new Legislature of New-Hampshire is Republican. An interesting question has arisen, whether the Legislature.next chosen will elect a United States Senator or not, the weight of opinion being that that important duty will devolve upon its successor.

WASHINGTON NOTES.

Washisaron, Thursday, Jan. 16, 1873.
The resignation of Frank House as Pension Agent at New-York was received at the Interior Department to

Lawrence Barrett, the actor, who is playing a suc Chief-Justice Cariter to-day granted an order for the

the Grow commercey case. He was turned over to the custody of the Marshal, and will be taken to New-York to-night by Deputy-Mashal L. H. Douglass. A bill was introduced in the House to-day by Repraentative Luttrell to prohibit the employment of Chinese

ted States. Mr. Luttrest also introduced a ball, which the steat nothing contained in the provisions of the realization lews of the United States shall be covered as to permit the naturalization or Chinese or Mon The bill introduced by S-nator Dorsey to-day provides for the continuance of the Hot Springs Commission, and entarnes its powers by authorizing it to reserve from sale,

enhances its powers by autorizing it brosses a treat say, and dedicate to public uses, various lots of ground as sites for schoolhouses, observes, etc. Authority is also given for the employment of additional clerks and stemographers, and for the taking of depositions in cases where witnesses are physically anade to attend the sessions of the Commission, or reside more than 100 miles distant from the flot Springs.

Ex-Senator Carpenter, of counsel in the Ottman case, has given notice that he will, on the 12th inst., move has given issues that he will, on the 12th first, move "for an order requiring and compelling the Property Clerk of the Metropolitan Court to surrender up, and deliver over to the assigner of the defendant (Oftmant, the United States Treasury and built notes described in the annexed efficient." These notes, amounting to \$5,595, are described by Mr. Oftman, wao is under indicament for the \$17,600 Treasury robberty of 1875. They were taken postession of by the officers at the time of his arrest. The District-Attorney will oppose the motion.

PENDLETON NOMINATED IN OHIO.

CRAHIC CAUCUS-PENDLETON'S CAUSE ADVANCED BY THE ATTACK OF THE LABOR REFORMERS. [BT TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

COLUMBUS, Ohio, Jan. 10 .- The question thich has so long occupied the public mind: What man should fill the place made vacant when Senster M. thewa's time expired, has at last been settled, and the Hon. George A. Pendieton, of Cincinnati has been chosen. The subject has been since the late October election, when the Democrats gained control of the State. Mr. Pendleton had to contend with two men of more than ordinary popularity ideas, and General G. W. Morgan, who was also an anti-resumptionist, but not an extremist to the exten General Ewing was. Ten days ago it was most generally conceded that Messrs. Pendleton and Ewing were about even, with a possibility of the former leading or the first ballot. General Ewing counted his follower that could be relied upon at thirty, while General Morgan was credited with a following of about twenty Messrs, Hurd, of Toledo, and Parme, of Cleveland. The ballots show how weak was their strength. During the past week all of the candidates have been in the city, with large lobbies working for their interests, to last night there were few who did not concelle that Mr. Pendleton would have a hard fight if he won the honor. Yesterday, however, a most scurrile attack was made upon him in the shape of circular. At first it created confusion, but hist might hi friends had recovered, and it was found that instead of causing a break in the ranks it had only served to strengthen them by adding men who were before doubtful as to who they would support. As predicted last night Mr. Pendleton gained during the day from this cause alone. It was openly charged that General Ewing or his backers were at the bottom of the onslaught. The effect was that many of General Ewing's men deserted him. He fell off at least ten on the first ballot from the number conceded

him by the other candidates.

During the balloting Mr. Pendleton remained at his room at the Neil House, while Generals Ewing and Morgan occupied quarters in the State House.

The caucus was hold in secret session, not a reporte being able to gain admission. Not even the Clerks of the Senate were allowed to be present. At upon itself the character of an intercessor for one the close of the second ballot the Ewing unfortunate belligerent, while also acting officiously men moved for adjournment but this was most emphatically voted down. During the balloting the halls and corridors were densely packed. At an early hour this morning a very powerful delegation arrived from Cincinnati and reinforced the almost worn-out defenders of Pendleton. They worked like troopers during the day, and the fight has been an extremely bitter one dur ing the past twenty-four hours.

After the third ballot was announced, and it was

known that Pendleton was nominated, there was a rush to his hetel, where he was warmly congratulated. A speech was called for, when the whole body adjourned to the hall of the House of Representatives, where speeches were delivered by Mr. Pendleton and Goverals Ewing and Morgan. Mr. Pendleton, in a few brief remarks, thanked those who had supported him in this contest, that he was proud to know there had been no ill-feeling among the contestants. God heiping him he would do his duty. Following are the ballots:

FIRST BALLOT. SECOND BALLOT. THIRD BALLOT. Pendleten51 | Ward..... 19 | Converse. 16 | Payne The friends of Henry B. Payne desire the announcement to be made that that gentleman's name was not presented to the caucus to-night, and that Representative Poe stated to the caucus that Payne did not desire to be voted for. THE RUSSIANS VICTORIOUS.

A TURKISH ARMY CAPTURED. THE TURKS DRIVEN FROM THE SHIPKA PASS, AND MADE PRISONERS-THE EUSSIANS AGAIN SOUTH

OF THE BALKANS.

General Radetzky has captured the whole Ottoman army defending the Shipka Pass. It was about 12,000 strong. The victory was won in concert with General Skobeleff. The Turks resisted stubbornly. The Porte has made formal apfor an armistice, but it is supposed that Russia will insist that peace-terms shall be considered in advance. In London, the Duke of Sutherland has made a strong anti-Russian

GREAT RUSSIAN VICTORY.

THE OTTOMAN FORCES DRIVEN FROM THE SHIPKA PASS-FORTY-ONE BATTALIONS CAPTURED. St. Petersburg, Thursday, Jan. 10, 1878.

The Grand Duke Nicholas has sent the following telegram from Lovatz. It is dated Wednesday: I am happy to congratulate Your Majesty upon a

brilliant victory gained to-day. General Radetzky has, after desperate fighting, captured the whole Turkish army defending the Shipka Pass, consisting of 41 battalious, 10 batteries and one regiment of eavalry. Prince Mirsky has occupied Kezanlik. General Skobeloff holds Shipka. The Shipka Pass has been the scene of desperate con

flicts since it fell into the Russians' hands. Last July General Ghourko crossed the Balkans east of that highsoon after attacked it from south. General Skobeleff assailed it at the same time on the north. This double attack disconcerted the Turkish troops, who immediately surrendered. The Russians promptly occupied th Pass, and strengthened its defences. General Ghourko continued to march into Roumelia, but Suleman Pasha continued to march into Roumelia, but Suleman Pasha advanced with superior forces and compelled him to retreat. The disasser at Plevan then for a while spread dismay in the Russian ranks. Following up his victories, Suleiman attacked (August 21) the Russian position at the Shigka Pass. Desperate fighting followed for several days. The Russians held their ground against heavy odds until reinforced by General Radetzay, whose timely arrival saved them from destruction. The Russian loss in these combats was nearly 3,600 officers and subalterus. So soon as Suleiman was reinforced, he sent his troops mean against the Russian defences, which he had almost invested. After stubborn fighting the Ottoman troops entered Fort St. Nicholas, but soon found it untemptie, and add to retreat. After this scripts of decay, when he had almost invested served. invested. After stubborn fichting the Ottoman troops entered Fort St. Nicholas, but soon found it unfemble, amhad to retreat. After this series of defeats, which coshim 20,000 of his best troops, Suleman ceased offensiv,
operations. Part of his army, however, continued thold the village of Shipka, at the base of the mountain
us well as strong positions on the flank of
the Rossans. The Winter shows entailed great suffering
on both combatants, but until the defeat on Tuesday. I
was generally supposed that neither could be discogreuntil the return of the weather. The Russians havnow an open highway to the road leading from shipka
to Adrinaphe. Kezanilk, which they have occupied, h
in Roumeila, and south of the Balkans.

THE APPEAL FOR AN ARMISTICE. Loxpon, Thursday, Jan. 10, 1878.

Reuter's Bucharest dispatch says the Turkish Commander-in-Chief yesterday notified the Russian headquarters at Lovatz that he was empowered to arrange the basis of an armistice, and that Mehemet-Ali had been designated as the eventual Turkish plenipotentiary. The Grand Duke Nicholas acknowledged the receipt of the communication. adding that he would report the matter to St. Petershurg.

The Russian Agency denies the truth of the statement that the Porte has already accepted a preliminary basis of peace, and says the Porte, however, is aware that the acceptance of these bases must precode the conclusion of an armistice.

THE MYSTERIES OF BRITISH DIPLOMACY. THE CABINET DIVIDED ON THE RUSSO-PURKISH QUESTION-A COMPROMISE ADOPTED-TURKEY APPEAL FOR MEDIATION PROBABLY MADE AT THE INSTANCE OF ENGLAND—EFFORTS TO FIRE THE BRITISH HEART-JOHN BRIGHT'S OPINION.

FROM THE REGULAR CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE.

LONDON, Dec. 29.—All the London papers of this morning contain the announcement "that the Sultan has solicited her Majesty's Government to approach the Emperor of Russia, with the view of loraging about negotiations for peace, and that her Majesty's Government have agreed to comply with this request." This is carefully worded, the terms are identical in all the papers, and were, in fact, settied by the Cabinet. They are not as yet accorpanied by any gloss or clucidation sufficient to clear up their intentional ambiguity. No two of the journals which comment upon them take quite the same view of their meaning, or of the purpose that hes hid under this mysterious phraseology. The word mediation of the country from the Lands End to John o' Grosals. A Craygila. by the Cabinet. They are not as yet accompanied by any gloss or elucidation sufficient to clear up their has been carefully excluded from the formula. Mediation would signify the intention of England to accept a sincerely impartial mission; which she will never do so long as Lord Beaconsfield remains at the head of her Government, "Mediation and Warning" says the personal organ of the Prime Minister, "Jare the subjects which have lately absorbed the attention of her Majesty's Ministers. But that also is enigmatical. Mediation is a friendly act; warning is not a word commonly employed by writers familiar with the discussion of International questions and the cautious terms of diplomacy, but may be presumed to have had in the mind of the person using it a hostile meaning. Translated out of the peculiar dialect of Peterborough Court into English, the sentence would signify that one section of the Cabinet has been urging Mediation, and that another section has been urging Intervention. The result seems to have been, as usual, a compromise; the adoption of a policy which is neither mediation nor intervention but an attempt at both; with the not improbable result of incurring the disadvantages

of both and securing the advantages of neither. It is elsewhere intimated that the step now taken is simply the acceptance by England of a diplomatic agency in behalf of Turkey. "We have," remarks the leading Tory journal, "as agents, to exereise much delicacy toward our principal." But this theory must be regarded as purely speculative and individual. There is nothing in the article to indicate that the writer is really in possession of any more information than the rest of the world. Still less can enlightenment be found in the Liberal journals. All that can be expected in their columns is a statement of their own conjectures as to the real purport of the announcement flung out with all the suddenness and all the vagueness of form in which Lord Beaconsfield, above all other men in public life, delights. One journal treats it as an offer of mediation, or rather as an offer which ought to be an offer of mediation, and must be, if any good is to come cut of it. Another considers that the Government has taken for Europe. Both agree that, in the midst of ail this, there are English interests that cannot be lost sight of, and both are keenly alive to the fact that, if mediation be honestly tempted, it can only be by a distinct renunciation of the policy implied by certain too well known acts and declarations of the Government, or of some of its members, in the recent past. To-day, therefore, we are left to dwell in an atmosphere of conjecture; which is doubtless what the Government intended when they put forth this new riddle. But we have to guess not only what the

What seems to me a fair inference from recent history is this: that it is not the Sultan who has, in the first instance, solicited Her Majesty's Government to approach the Emperor of Russia, but Lord Beaconsfield, who, through his too-ready ally, Mr. Layard, has urged the Sultan to apply in this way to England. If England stood in a position to offer her services as a mediator in the true sense of that word, there would be nothing to complain of in this, and it would not much matter whether the initiative came from the Porte or from Whitehall. But if such a proposal is made to Russia in the hope and with the expectation that she will refuse it, and

meaning of the riddle may be, but whether it really

had a meaning; whether, in other words, any real

decision has been taken. In these painful circum-

stances, one guess is as good as another; and I will

with an ulterior purpose based on a refusal which there is reason to expect-what must be said of it

I do not affirm this. I suggest it as a piece of

Machiavellianism only too consistent with the policy followed by Lord Beaconsfield from the beginning of the negotiations, which came to a foreseen and planned failure at the Constantinople Conference Nor would that alone justify a surmise so injurious to British honor. The human mind, if left to itself, would prefer to accept the last declaration as a sign of repentance. But there is some evidence to the contrary which cannot be neglected. The sentence I have quoted above from Lord Beaconsfield's organ might not mean much taken by itself, but it is accompanied by a curious piece of testimony in the shape of a dispatch purporting to come from Vienna. Now, it has been said before this that the Vienna dispatches, or some of them, appearing in The Daily Telegraph have their real source in a region not quite so remote from Downing st. and that what is thus given to the reader is what Lord Beaconsfield wishes the Enghash public to consider as facts. Be that as it may, the Vienna dispatch of this morning is commended to general attention in terms of great solemnity. It is written as if without knowledge of the declaration to which it is annexed. It announces as probable what the Government has just announced as a fact-only in different and more guarded terms-that the English Foreign Office would tender its services to Russia as mediator; and adds: "If I undertook the ungrateful duty of prophecy, I should be inclined to believe that these services will not be accepted by Russia, and that Prince Gortschakoff will declare his objection to treat for peace in any other fashion than by direct communication with the Porte." And, we are told editorally, that the offer is sure in any case to be profitable, for it will either lead to peace, or it will disclose the intentions of Russia, which are presumed to be a "thirst for blood and greed for territory too strong for reasonable arrangements."

What does this mean if it does not mean that England is to make a proposal of a mediatory nature which her proved hostility to Russia unfits her to make, which she knows in advance will be declined, and which may be made a basis or excuse for a more open espousal of the Turkish cause hereafter? It is doing no wrong to Lord Beaconsfield to suppose him capable of this. It would be doing much wrong to some of his colleagues, or to the English people, to suppose that they would be parties to the scheme when the course of events had revealed its nature. I repeat that this is but a surmise, and that the evidence confirming it, so far as it is confirmed, is evidence to be received with exercine caution.

While these negotiations have been going on, the efforts to depict the country as eager for war have not ceased. The anti-Russia open-air meeting in Trafalgar Square has been industriously advertised for some days by startling placards, and by not less startling letters which have appeared in the Sultan's London organ-the journal above referred to as Lord Beaconsfield's organ, which comes to much the same thing. Under the title "The Feeling of the Country," this journal has published some acores of communications, full of seperlatives borrowed from its leading columns, and of that raging felly to which certain sections of the British public-too numerous for strait-waistcoat treatment-from time to time fall victims. A specimen or two must suffice. H. P. experiences "feelings of shame and indignation that there

should be those among us bearing the proud name of Englishmen who could stoop to humble themselves before the Czar and his satellites-afraid to defend the cause of truth and justice." He calls apon Englishmen to "strengthen the bands of our Ministers in bidding this cruel war cease," "This eruel war " is a phrase you heard often from the same has in the days of the Rebellion. It is now brought out for use by the same sort of people, and in defence of a werse cause. "Let England insist," writes J. P., "that these torrents of blood must cease be appined to cause a bazze that will light up the country from the Lands End to John o' Greats. A "Traveller" has no doubt that there is a universal smouldering feeling of indignation, which requires but little to fan it into a blazz. Mixing his metaphors a little tmost of these letter-writers do that; it is one form of expressing overpowering emotion) he declares that it needs but the stirring words of patriotism addressed by a few earnest leaders to the masses to create a sterm that would make the world stand aglast. Why England should wish the world to stand aghast, or how British interests would be promoted if it did, our Traveller omits to explain. But the object might be achieved if advice should be taken of the colonel who proposes, in all seriousness, that Indian armies should be sent to the relief of the Sultan.

ness, that build a sound bluster it is more than Against all this windy bluster it is more than who Against an this way, and a sufficient to quote a sentence from a man who knows better than most men the feelings of his countrymen. In his brief, firm way, Mr. Bright says: "I do not think we shall have war; for the country is for peace, and the Government has no ally. The Administration may not be a wise one, but it must bend to circumstances."

G. W. S.

COLUMBUS, Ohio, Jan. 10 .- In the Senate to day bills were introduced to fix cight bours as a day's labor, and to smend the Gambling law so as to said imprisonment to the penalty for pool-selling on elections. in the Senate to-day, favoring the complete restoration of the provisions of the Columpe Act as it existed prior to February 12, 1873. Governor Smith read his message to the two Houses in joint session.

ROCKLAND COUNTY NATIONAL BANK. NYACK, N. Y., Jan. 10.-The Rockland County National Bank at this village, which suspended payment December 28, was, by a vote of the stockholders to-day, thrown into voluntary bankruptcy.

ST. LOUIS EVENING POST.

St. Louis, Jan. 10 .- A new journal, The Erening Post, was started here to day. It is an afternoon paper, and is owned and edited by John A. Dillon, who, for several years, was chief political writer of The Globe and The Globe Democrat.

THE IOWA SENATORSHIP. DES MOINES, Iowa, Jan. 10 .- The Legislaire, which meets on Monday next, will prob elect United States Senater Allison. There is no other candidate in the field.

TELEGRAPHIC NOTES.

AUBURN, N. Y., Jan. 10.—Mrs. John Long was ranger and killed by a New-York Central freight engine, near ALEXANDRIA, Va., Jan. 10.-The suit of the beirs

the Lee tamily, to the Armagion property, outposed till March or April. CONCORD, N. H., Jan. 10.—Win. S. Curtis, of Hop-concord, N. H., Jan. 10.—Win. S. Curtis, of Hop-manufic assaulted in his house, it is sup-FARMINGTON, N. H., Jan. 10, - John Q. Pinkham, he nurdered Mrs. Serry, at New Durham, N. H., yesterday,

who nurdered Mrs. Ecrry, at New Durham, N. H., yesterday, was committed to jain to await trial. CHICAGO, Jan. 10.—The third annual exhibition of the National Poultry Association opened this afternoon. The entries are 1,000 poultry and 200 pigeons.

BUEFALO, N. Y. Jan. 10.—Colonel Robert G. In-creedl, of Illinois, rectured in the Academy of Music this wening on the Liberty of Man, Weman and Child. BOSTON, Jan. 10.—Edward McSweeney escaped from the Charles Street Jail last night, where he had been confined several months for assault upon his own mother.

SAVANNAH, Ga., Jan. 10.—The through Pullman sleeping car which left floaten, Massachusetts, at 7 o'celeck Monday evening, arrived here this merning at 7 o'clock. Monday evening, arrived here this morning at 7 o'clock.

LockPoer, N. Y., Jan. 10.—In a fight in this city, last evening, John Smith, age nineteen, was fatally stabbed by John Farley, also age nineteen. Farley is under arrest.

Boston, Jan. 10.—W. W. Churchill & Co., a leading dry goods firm on Washington-st., have suspended payment. No statement as to the affairs of the firm has yet been made.

Potrsville, Penn., Jan. 10.-An explosion oc-

curred at the Wadesville Shaft, three miles from to-day. Joseph Allen, Wm. Pope and John Sh badly burned. Allen died this afternoon. POUGHKEEPSIE, N. Y., Jan. 10.—A well-dressed insane man was taken from the cars to night. He is supposed to be feedre Harris, of New York. He had in his possession ablank book contaming a diary of extensive travels.